

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 83

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 24, 1996

By Senators BASSANO, SINGER and SINAGRA

- 1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing Congress to recognize
2 Jerusalem as an undivided city and the capital of Israel, and to move the
3 United States Embassy to Jerusalem.
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- 5 **WHEREAS**, Every nation in the world has the right to designate its capital, and
6 Jerusalem is the seat of the Israeli Knesset and of the government ministries
7 of the State of Israel; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, For the Jewish people, and for the substantial pro-Israel
9 community in the United States, the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital
10 is not negotiable, and an explicit declaration of United States policy on
11 Jerusalem to this effect would win the support and appreciation of the
12 American pro-Israel community; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, None of the nations that conquered Jerusalem, Byzantium, the
14 Arabs from the Peninsula, the Crusaders, the Mamelukes, the Ottoman
15 Turks, Britain, nor Jordan, ever saw it as the birthplace of their nation or
16 the central shrine of their faith, nor did they ever seek to make it their
17 national or religious capital; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, For the Jewish people, Jerusalem has been both the political and
19 spiritual capital of the nation, and has been the focus of national or religious
20 learning since the fall of the second commonwealth; and
- 21 **WHEREAS**, Jerusalem has had a Jewish majority for the majority of this
22 century, and those who argue that the West Bank and Gaza should have
23 an Arab political destiny because their population is overwhelmingly Arab
24 are on poor ground when they forget the majority principle in Jerusalem;
25 and
- 26 **WHEREAS**, Jerusalem's location is strategically critical, as it rests atop a
27 plateau from which the entire Sahron plain to the west and the Jordan Rift
28 Valley to the east can be monitored, and to divide the city and place it
29 under Arab control would be to threaten the very nerve center of the
30 country; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, In practice, Jerusalem serves as the capital of Israel for diplomatic
32 purposes, and ambassadors to Israel present their credentials in Jerusalem
33 and presidential state visits are officially welcomed in Jerusalem; and
- 34 **WHEREAS**, Many other countries currently maintain embassies in Jerusalem;
35 and

1 **WHEREAS**, A Congressional declaration regarding Jerusalem would merely be
2 a reaffirmation of this de facto acceptance of Jerusalem's status as Israel's
3 capital; now, therefore,

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5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General*
6 *Assembly concurring):*

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8 1. The Congress is memorialized to recognize Jerusalem as an undivided
9 city and the capital of Israel, and to move the United States Embassy to
10 Jerusalem.

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12 2. Duly authenticated copies of this concurrent resolution, signed by the
13 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested
14 by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall
15 be transmitted to the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the
16 United States House of Representatives and each of the members of Congress
17 elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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22 This resolution memorializes Congress to recognize unified Jerusalem as the
23 capital of Israel and to move the United States Embassy to that city.

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28 Memorializes Congress to recognize Jerusalem as an undivided city and the
29 capital of Israel and to move the United States embassy there.